Recommendations of NCW

2940. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the National Commission for Women have given consideration to the existing laws against sexual assault;

(b) if so, what are the major changes suggested;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations; and

(d) by when Government would bring necessary amendments to the existing laws against sexual assault and rape based on the recommendations of NCW?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major changes proposed relating to sexual assault are under Section 375, 376, 354 and 509 IPC and the relevant Sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act 1872.

(c) and (d) The recommendations are under the consideration of the Government. Since the amendments pertain to amending the provisions of IPC, CrPC and IEA, it would not be possible to give a time frame for bringing the necessary amendment at present.

Half-way homes and transit points

2941. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up half-way homes and transit points to control trafficking and for rescue and rehabilitation of its women victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a centrally funded project; and

(d) how far this would help to control and address this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Ujjawala, in the component of reintegration, there is a provision for setting up of half-way homes to facilitate effective reintegration of the beneficiaries into the community. Further, in the component of Repatriation, there is a provision of setting up of transit camp at the border-check points to facilitate cross border repatriation of victims.

Female infanticide

2942. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are fully aware of the killings of female child after birth;

(b) if so, the details of such infanticide during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) what are the effective measures taken or being taken to prevent this evil practice; and

(d) whether the Cradle Baby Scheme in Tamil Nadu, which has been yielding very good response and results, would be followed in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) National Crime Record Bureau does not maintain sex-wise information on infanticide. However, State/UT-wise number of cases registered under Infanticide (Section 315 IPC) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 102, 108 and 126 respectively.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the scheme of Dhanalakshmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for girl child with Insurance Cover which includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age. The Ministry is also undertaking awareness and sensitization programmes.

(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme namely "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" for implementation during the Eleventh Plan Period under which there is provision for setting up of Cradle Baby Reception Centres in each district. These Cradle Baby Reception Centres would be linked to Cradle Points at Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs), Hospitals/Nursing Homes, Swadhar Units, Short Stay Homes and in District Child Protection Unit to receive abandoned babies. The proposed scheme is yet to be implemented.

Regulation of surrogacy

2943. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to regulate the business of surrogacy through Government agency in the interest of surrogate child;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether surrogacy cost in the country are abysmally low as compared to USA, UK and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is informed by Indian Council of Medical Research that there is no control of Government on IVF practices including surrogacy in the country and, therefore, there is no authentic data regarding the cost of surrogacy in the country.

Chairmen of the Social Welfare Boards

2944. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Social Welfare Boards in all States are approved by the Chairperson, Central Social Welfare Board in the Ministry;